

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A screwdriver comprising:

a handle having hollow cavity;

a pair of elongated members having a proximal and distal end, wherein the elongated members are coupled together at their proximal ends within the handle, and wherein the distal ends form a combined drive tip;

a movable sleeve disposed over the elongated members such that when the sleeve is retracted proximally, the drive tips on the elongated members align with one another and when the movable sleeve is extended distally, the drive tips on the elongated members overlap one another; and

a retaining member protruding radially from the hollow cavity, the retaining member preventing the movable sleeve from distally extending a particular distance away from the handle.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A The screwdriver of claim 1 comprising:

a handle;

a pair of elongated members having a proximal and distal end, wherein the elongated members are coupled together at their proximal ends within the handle, and wherein the distal ends form a combined drive tip;

a movable sleeve disposed over the elongated members such that when the sleeve is retracted proximally, the drive tips on the elongated members align with one another and when the movable sleeve is extended distally, the drive tips on the elongated members overlap one another; and

a retaining member, the retaining member preventing the movable sleeve from distally extending a particular distance away from the handle;

wherein the retaining member includes two retaining ridges, one retaining ridge is positioned on the movable sleeve and another retaining ridge is positioned on the handle.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the movable sleeve retaining member electrically insulates all portions of the elongated members disposed between the movable sleeve and the handle.

Claim 4. (Original) The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the handle includes a hollow cavity with a tapered entrance, and wherein the retaining member includes a recessable portion and a retaining ridge, and wherein the recessable portion is shaped to pass through the tapered entrance and move within the hollow cavity, and wherein the retaining ridge is shaped to be obstructed by the tapered entrance but be able to move within the hollow cavity.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The screwdriver of claim 2 wherein one of the retaining members remains within the handle when the movable sleeve is retracted proximally and extended distally.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the movable sleeve comprises a high voltage insulator ~~screwdriver is useful in high voltage applications.~~

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the combined drive tip forms a straight-slot screwdriver drive tip when the movable sleeve is retracted into the hollow cavity of ~~against~~ the handle.

Claim 8. (Original) The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the elongated members are welded together at their proximal ends at a location corresponding to the handle.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A screwdriver comprising:

a handle;

a pair of elongated members having a proximal and distal end, wherein the elongated members are coupled together at their proximal ends within the handle, and wherein the distal ends form a combined drive tip;

a movable sleeve disposed over the elongated members such that when the sleeve is retracted proximally, the drive tips on the elongated members separate from one another and when the movable sleeve is extended distally, the drive tips on the elongated members overlap one another; and

at least one retaining member coupled to one of the handle and the movable sleeve, wherein the movable sleeve ~~at least one retaining member~~ electrically insulates all portions of the elongated members disposed between the movable sleeve and the handle when the movable sleeve is extended distally.

Claim 10. (Original) The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the at least one retaining member prevents the movable sleeve from distally extending a particular distance away from the handle.

Claim 11. (Original) The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the at least one retaining member includes two retaining ridges, one retaining ridge is positioned on the movable sleeve and another retaining ridge is positioned on the handle, and wherein the retaining ridges abut one another when the movable sleeve is extended away from the handle a particular distance.

Claim 12 . (Original) The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the handle includes a hollow cavity with a tapered entrance, and wherein the at least one retaining member includes a recessable portion and a retaining ridge, and wherein the recessable portion is shaped to pass through the tapered entrance and move within the hollow cavity, and wherein the retaining ridge is shaped to be obstructed by the tapered entrance but be able to move within the hollow cavity.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the movable sleeve comprises a high voltage insulator ~~screwdriver is useful for high voltage applications.~~

Claim 14. (Original) The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the combined drive tip forms a straight-slot screwdriver drive tip when the sleeve is retracted against the handle.

Claim 15. (Original) The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the elongated members are welded together at their proximal ends within the handle.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A screwdriver comprising:

a handle having a hollow cavity and a tapered opening;

a pair of elongated members having a proximal and distal end, wherein the elongated members are coupled together at their proximal ends within the handle, and wherein the distal ends include a drive tip;

a movable sleeve disposed over the elongated members such that when the sleeve is retracted proximally, the drive tips on the elongated members separate from one another and when the movable sleeve is extended distally, the drive tips on the elongated members join together; and

at least one retaining member coupled to the movable sleeve, wherein the moveable sleeve ~~at least one retaining member~~ includes a recessable portion and the at least one retaining member comprises a retaining ridge, and wherein the recessable portion is shaped to pass through the tapered opening entrance and move within the hollow cavity, and wherein the retaining ridge is shaped to be obstructed by the tapered opening entrance but be able to move within the hollow cavity.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein the movable sleeve ~~at least one retaining member~~ electrically insulates all portions of the elongated members disposed between the movable sleeve and the handle when the movable sleeve is extended distally.

Claim 18. (Original) The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein the at least one retaining member prevents the movable sleeve from distally extending a particular distance away from the handle.

Claim 19. (Original) The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein one of the at least one retaining member remains within the hollow cavity of the handle when the movable sleeve is retracted proximally and extended distally.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein the movable sleeve comprises a high voltage insulator ~~screwdriver is useful for high voltage applications.~~

Claim 21. (Original) The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein the combined drive tip forms a flat head screwdriver drive tip when the sleeve is retracted against the handle.

Claim 22. (Original) The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein the elongated members are welded together at their proximal ends within the handle.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A screwdriver, comprising:

a handle;

a pair of elongated members, each member having a proximal end, a middle section, and a distal end, the respective proximal ends being held by the handle, the respective distal ends combining to form a drive tip;

a movable sleeve disposed over the elongated members wherein movement of the sleeve causes the distal ends to move relative to each other, the sleeve being of sufficient length to cover the middle sections of the elongated members irrespective of the position of the sleeve.

Claim 24. (New) A method of operating a screwdriver, comprising:

providing a screwdriver, the screwdriver comprising a handle, a pair of elongated members, each of the pair of members having a proximal end, a middle section, and a distal end, the respective proximal ends being attached at the handle, the respective distal ends combining to form a drive tip, and a movable sleeve disposed at least partially over the elongated members wherein movement of the sleeve causes the distal ends to move relative to each other;

advancing the movable sleeve with respect to the handle and the pair of elongated members;

splitting the drive tip;

maintaining insulation of the middle sections of the pair of elongated members by the movable sleeve even after the advancing.

Claim 25. (New) A screwdriver, comprising:

a handle having a hollow cavity;

a pair of elongated members, each member having a proximal end, a middle section, and a distal end, the respective proximal ends being held against longitudinal movement by the handle, the respective distal ends combining to form a drive tip;

a sliding sleeve disposed over the elongated members and slidable into and out of the hollow cavity;

wherein distal movement of the sleeve relative to the handle and the pair of elongated members causes the distal ends of the elongated members to move relative to each other, the sliding sleeve being of sufficient length to cover the middle sections of the elongated members at any position of the sliding sleeve.